

# **LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER**

Information provided in this section pertains only to the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order in South Dakota. The previous section reported only on the regular season.

The 2008 Light Goose Conservation Order covered 10 February - 8 May statewide. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year the conservation order was offered. The daily bag was 20 geese with an unlimited possession limit. To hunt light geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident Spring Light Goose or a nonresident Youth Spring Light Goose license. Hunters were not required to possess a federal waterfowl stamp to participate in the conservation order.

Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. In 2008, there were a projected 6,601 license holders who hunted at least one day for light geese during the conservation order dates (3,330 residents, 3,271 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were a projected total of 107,137 light geese harvested.

The average days hunted by all hunters projected to a total of 31,331 recreation days for the conservation order. The average season bag from hunters reporting use of electronic callers was 12.4 for residents and 17.0 for nonresidents. The average season bag from hunters reporting use of unplugged shotguns was 16.7 for residents and 19.6 for nonresidents. The average season bag for hunters reporting after sunset hunting was 4.8 for residents and 5.8 for nonresidents. Approximately 7.4% of resident hunters and 9.6% of nonresident hunters reached the daily bag limit at least once.

Brown, Kingsbury, Lake and Clark counties were identified by the most hunters (30% of all respondents combined) as the areas they hunted most.

Comparison of the 1999 - 2008 Conservation Order light goose harvests:

<b>Year</b>	<b><i>Resident Hunters</i></b>			<b><i>Nonresident Hunters</i></b>		
	<b><i>Number Hunters</i></b>	<b><i>Harvest</i></b>	<b><i>Total Days Hunted</i></b>	<b><i>Number Hunters</i></b>	<b><i>Harvest</i></b>	<b><i>Total Days Hunted</i></b>
1999	7,059	80,856	40,487	1,571	14,257	4,678
2000	3,908	45,687	24,189	2,159	23,230	7,528
2001	4,172	31,913	18,180	2,063	22,462	7,309
2002	7,270	88,190	41,856	2,084	34,537	8,547
2003	3,546	43,898	22,823	1,739	26,184	8,198
2004	3,727	52,756	20,169	2,301	37,028	8,907
2005	4,136	71,545	26,427	2,617	44,852	11,161
2006	3,764	51,027	21,767	3,150	48,520	13,262
2007	2,480	39,343	13,323	2,808	57,212	9,970
2008	3,330	45,995	18,925	3,271	61,142	12,406

## **CONS ORDER LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2008**

*Last Revised: 25 July 08*

	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Non Residents</b>
<b>CONSERVATION ORDER LIGHT GOOSE Licenses Sold *3*</b>	12,612	3,478
<b>Projected ACTIVE CONS ORDER LIGHT GOOSE HUNTERS</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>3,271</b>
Number Sampled for Survey	1,911	583
Number Responded to Survey	1,428	387
Responded and Participated in Season	<b>377</b>	<b>364</b>
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	1,051	23
<b>Survey Response Rate</b>	<b>74.7%</b>	<b>66.4%</b>
<b><i>TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST CONSERVATION ORDER = 107,137</i></b>		
Late Season (Conservation Order) 2/10 - 3/10 Period:		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	197	52
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	793	157
<b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>	<b>4.03</b>	<b>3.02</b>
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	1,423	745
<b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>	<b>7.22</b>	<b>14.33</b>
<b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>	<b>7,012</b>	<b>1,410</b>
<b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>467</b>
<b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>	<b>12,563</b>	<b>6,692</b>
<b><i>TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 2/1 - 3/10 = 19,255</i></b>		
Late Season (Conservation Order) 3/11 - 5/8 Period:		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	284	328
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days 3/11-5/8	1,350	1,225
<b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese 3/11-5/8</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>3.73</b>
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	3,787	6,057
<b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>	<b>13.33</b>	<b>18.47</b>
<b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>	<b>11,913</b>	<b>10,996</b>
<b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>	<b>2,508</b>	<b>2,948</b>
<b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>	<b>33,432</b>	<b>54,450</b>
<b><i>TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 3/11 - 5/8 = 87,882</i></b>		
Reported Number of Hunters Using Electronic Callers	89	249
Reported Harvest by Hunters Using Electronic Callers	1,099	4,236
Reported Number of Hunters Using Unplugged Shotguns	181	269
Reported Harvest by Hunters Using Unplugged Shotguns	3,016	5,269
Reported Number of Hunters Hunting After Sunset	59	85
Reported Harvest by Hunters Hunting After Sunset	285	490
<b>Projected Number of Hunters Using Electronic Callers</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>2,238</b>
<b>Average Season Bag for Hunters Using Electronic Callers</b>	<b>12.35</b>	<b>17.01</b>
<b>Projected Harvest by Hunters Using Electronic Callers</b>	<b>9,707</b>	<b>38,068</b>
<b>Projected Number of Hunters Using Unplugged Shotguns</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>2,418</b>
<b>Average Season Bag for Hunters Using Unplugged Shotguns</b>	<b>16.66</b>	<b>19.59</b>
<b>Projected Harvest by Hunters Using Unplugged Shotguns</b>	<b>26,639</b>	<b>47,369</b>
<b>Projected Number of Hunters Hunting After Sunset</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>764</b>
<b>Average Season Bag for Hunters Hunting After Sunset</b>	<b>4.83</b>	<b>5.76</b>
<b>Projected Harvest by Hunters Hunting After Sunset</b>	<b>2,516</b>	<b>4,401</b>
*3* Numbers of resident licenses sold are based on the number of migratory bird certificates in the 2008 database purchased prior to April		

# Light Goose Conservation Order Hunter and Harvest Distribution by County 2008

COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter **
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	25	223	3.9	259	266	2,372	2.5	2,693	10.6
Pennington	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Brown	73	650	11.4	754	1,098	9,793	10.4	11,120	15.1
Beadle	29	258	4.5	299	451	4,023	4.3	4,568	15.6
Codington	21	187	3.3	217	572	5,102	5.4	5,793	27.3
Brookings	30	267	4.7	310	332	2,961	3.1	3,362	11.1
Yankton	27	241	4.2	279	433	3,862	4.1	4,385	16.0
Davison	17	151	2.7	175	312	2,783	2.9	3,160	18.4
Lawrence	1	9	0.2	10	1	9	0.0	10	1.0
Aurora	4	36	0.6	42	15	134	0.1	152	3.7
Bennett	2	18	0.3	21	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bon Homme	8	71	1.2	82	90	803	0.9	912	11.3
Brule	5	45	0.8	52	70	624	0.7	709	13.9
Buffalo	2	18	0.3	21	18	161	0.2	183	8.9
Butte	1	9	0.2	10	30	268	0.3	304	29.8
Campbell	2	18	0.3	21	300	2,676	2.8	3,038	148.7
Charles Mix	12	107	1.9	124	96	856	0.9	972	8.0
Clark	40	356	6.3	413	715	6,377	6.8	7,241	17.9
Clay	7	62	1.1	72	14	125	0.1	142	2.0
Corson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Custer	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Day	27	241	4.2	279	329	2,934	3.1	3,331	12.2
Deuel	4	36	0.6	42	30	268	0.3	304	7.4
Dewey	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Douglas	6	53	0.9	61	122	1,088	1.2	1,235	20.5
Edmunds	11	98	1.7	114	157	1,400	1.5	1,590	14.3
Fall River	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Faulk	5	45	0.8	52	103	919	1.0	1,043	20.4
Grant	2	18	0.3	21	5	45	0.0	51	2.5
Gregory	1	9	0.2	10	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Haakon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Hamlin	22	196	3.4	227	292	2,604	2.8	2,957	13.3
Hand	3	27	0.5	31	62	553	0.6	628	20.5
Hanson	11	98	1.7	114	96	856	0.9	972	8.7
Harding	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Hughes	4	36	0.6	42	100	892	0.9	1,013	24.8
Hutchinson	12	107	1.9	124	210	1,873	2.0	2,127	17.5
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Jackson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Jerauld	1	9	0.2	10	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Jones	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Kingsbury	65	579	10.2	671	1,566	13,967	14.8	15,859	24.1
Lake	42	374	6.6	434	1,135	10,123	10.7	11,494	27.1
Lincoln	6	53	0.9	61	53	473	0.5	537	8.9
Lyman	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
McCook	23	205	3.6	238	437	3,898	4.1	4,426	19.0
McPherson	2	18	0.3	21	10	89	0.1	101	4.9
Marshall	11	98	1.7	114	153	1,365	1.4	1,550	13.9
Meade	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Mellette	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Miner	13	116	2.0	135	304	2,711	2.9	3,078	23.4
Moody	7	62	1.1	72	64	571	0.6	648	9.2
Perkins	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Potter	4	36	0.6	42	56	499	0.5	567	13.9
Roberts	4	36	0.6	42	22	196	0.2	223	5.4
Sanborn	6	53	0.9	61	33	294	0.3	334	5.5
Spink	15	134	2.4	155	245	2,185	2.3	2,481	16.3
Stanley	1	9	0.2	10	2	18	0.0	20	2.0
Sully	2	18	0.3	21	8	71	0.1	81	3.9
Tripp	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Turner	14	125	2.2	145	77	687	0.7	780	5.5
Union	8	71	1.2	82	95	847	0.9	962	11.9
Walworth	1	9	0.2	10	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ziebach	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Shannon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Todd	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Unk/Unreported	102	909	-	-	1,433	12,781	-	-	14.1
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>6,601</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,602</b>	<b>12,012</b>	<b>107,137</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>107,136</b>	<b>16.23</b>

Last Revised: 29 July 08

\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

\*\* Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.